



## MEETING WRAP

**This week the Ashburton Youth Council had our last formal meeting and we were joined by Navid Bashir and Reza Hussaini.**

Navid Bashir is on the refugee support team and is a cultural navigator. This role is to help and support refugees and helps with language barriers. We now have four Afghanistan families.

Families sometimes go to bordering countries like Malaysia or Iran and then to other safe countries. Afghanis have a very rich culture. Discrimination began over 200 years ago and this began wars many people have called New Zealand paradise.

Afghanistan has big political wars and fear brought on by the Taliban. Hazara is an ethnic group and they are badly affected because they are slightly different to other Afghani people. Refugees don't often have a destination in mind.

New Zealand is part of the International Community organisation. We are a host country to refugees. Reza lived in Afghanistan until he was 12 and then lived in Malaysia for 4 years. Navid said Afghanistan is a very beautiful place and used to be tourist rich until about 30 years ago.

Both Reza and Navid would, if given the opportunity, love to return to Afghanistan, describing it similar to Aoraki/Mount Cook.

We then went onto general business where the discussion topics were 2022 planning including Bite Nite and recruitment, our end of year celebration and as always who is writing this month's articles.

These exciting plans took us through to the end of our final formal meeting and we look forward to 2022.



**MADDIE PAGE**  
Secretary

Let's get  
social



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## AYC's 2022 Plans

**This is why you should join the Ashburton Youth Council, we have some amazing events and activities coming up in 2022;**

COMING  
UP IN  
2022



At AYC next year we will run a pink shirt day event, this means speak up, stand together, stop bullying! Celebrated annually around the globe, pink shirt day began in Canada in 2007 when two students too a stand against homophobic bullying after a peer was bullied for wearing a pink shirt.

For Mental Health Awareness Week we would like to have guest speakers at Ashburton College and Mt Hutt College.

We will also be participating in Keep NZ Beautiful Week and will be promoting all the various language weeks throughout the year.



**DOM COTTER**  
AYC Member

## What does AYC mean to me?

**The Ashburton Youth Council has always been a platform for me to share my ideas and to meet driven and passionate young people who have a heart for positive change in the community.**

I've been a member of AYC for the past two years and have learned many valuable lessons along the way.

My favourite part of the experience is definitely the monthly meetings. I have had the opportunity to meet so many people who take key roles in our community, often behind the scenes. This is something I never would have pictured myself doing outside of AYC. The stories and ideas mentors have shared have broadened my outlook on current issues especially. Aswell as that I have been able to build connections with other members in that time who have inspired my thinking.

Something I really value at youth council is that I'm heard. It amazes me when important organisations or places truly listen to the opinions of young people, and that is something, I feel, is greatly valued at AYC. We are allowed to think



for ourselves and are provided with the resources to put our thinking into action. No idea is ever dismissed, no matter how radical.

The area I have been privileged to grow in at AYC, is definitely my confidence and relational skills. Different speakers and guests at our meetings have taught me the importance of learning in a practical way which encourages growth. Through my experiences as a member, I have been able to speak at events, assist in writing submissions to the council and meet amazing people.

AYC has taught me qualities like; open mindedness, leadership skills,

perceptiveness/broader thinking, responsibility and teamwork. Being a member of the youth council means a great deal to me because of the opportunities provided for me to meet a wide range of people in our community and also because of the things I have been taught. I look forward to what's to come!



**OLIVIA FOX**  
Youth Councillor